

R E M A R K S

An Office Action was mailed on December 29, 2003, and declared Final. Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 8-18 are currently withdrawn from consideration.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant is submitting an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) for the review and consideration of the Examiner. Such IDS cites U.S. Patent 4,596,409, which shows the general state of the art of "laser writing." The Examiner is respectfully directed to column 3, lines 3-14, which describes the mechanism of laser writing. Pigments like titanium oxide are absorption centers for the laser beam. They reduce to titanium or titanium carbide under laser exposure and show a black or grey color, which appears to the user like an inscription. The Examiner must appreciate that this disclosure of laser-active pigments constitutes old, known state of the art to one skilled in the art at the time of the present invention.

Applicant also respectfully requests that the Examiner return a copy of the initialed, signed and dated FORM-1449 from Applicant's IDS of October 16, 2003.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

Claim 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Responsive thereto, Applicant has amended the claims to provide for the claim element:

said at least one plastic coating being firmly extruded onto the carrier material to form a thin-gauged combination of layers and ~~containing~~ consisting of laser-active pigments that are doped to permit printing ~~plastic material that permits subsequent personalization by~~ with a laser such that said pigments become colored after laser exposure; and

Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner to the bottom of page 5 of the specification, "*The coating applied in this way can consist on one or both sides of a laser-active plastic material which permits subsequent personalization with an Nd:YAG laser or other lasers.*" Thus, the claim language is now clearly supported by the originally-filed specification, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first

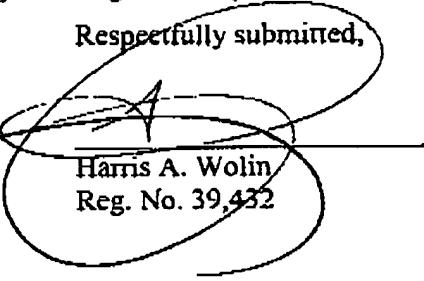
paragraph. The Examiner is also directed to the IDS reference for the general state of the art on "laser writing," which is also descriptive of the known art of "laser-active" pigments.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1-7, consisting of independent claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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